(a) whether due to delay in allotting captive iron-ore mine to steel companies, the capacity expansion of the steel plants has been affected;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether in the absence of adequate raw material, the steel plants are unable to produce steel as per target; and

(d) if so, the steps contemplated by Government to ensure allotment of captive iron ore mines to steel companies to achieve the target of production of steel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The capacity expansion projects of steel units are not solely dependent upon the allocation of iron-ore mines.

(c) and (d) The present production of iron-ore in the country is sufficient for the present domestic steel capacity. The production of iron-ore in the country during 2008-09 was 227.64 million tonnes, while the domestic consumption of iron-ore was estimated to be only 87 million tonnes. During 2008-09, 105.86 million tonnes of iron ore was exported from the country. However, Ministry of Steel is in favour of promoting value addition within the country and conservation of iron ore for long term utilization by the domestic steel industry. In this regard, it may be mentioned that the Government has approved. 'National Mineral Policy' 2008 which *inter-alia* provides for preference to value adders in the allocation of mineral concession. Ministry of Mines is in the process of bringing a new legislation to replace the existing Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 to give effect to the intent of the National Mineral Policy, 2008 and recommendations of the Hoda Committee as approved by the Government.

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12.00 NOON

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Correcting Answer to Question

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): Sir, I lay on the Table, a Statement (in English and Hindi) correcting the answer to Unstarred Question 2606 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 11th December, 2009 regarding Annual Requirement of Coaches.

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[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) in the Chair]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Statements (2008-09 and 2009-10) on Quarterly Review under Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): Sir, I lay on the Table: